



3 February 2023

John Yang

By email: fyi-request-21451-541b84b8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John

I refer to your information request dated 18 December 2022 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested information in relation to entry to the 2023 Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) programme at the University of Otago via the Graduate General category.

We set out our responses to each of your questions below.

1. The total number of applicants who applied for 2023 MB ChB entry under the General Graduate category

As at 31 January 2023, there were 269 applicants to the 2023 MB ChB programme via the Graduate General category.

2. The total number of seats allocated to the General Graduate category for 2023 MB ChB entry as approve by the Medical Admissions Committee

There is not set number of places available for entry to the 2023 MB ChB programme via the Graduate General category. Therefore, we decline providing this information pursuant to section 18(g) of the Act, on the basis that the information requested does not exist.

However, we note that approximately 20% of candidates are selected through the Graduate category (including sub-categories). The actual number of places offered to Graduate General category applicants is cohort dependent and will not be confirmed until the end of March when the University's Medical School confirms final class numbers for its 2023 MB ChB programme.

- 3. Did any 2023 General Graduate category MB ChB applicant receive a first-round offer on 18/12/2022. If so, please provide the number of General Graduate applicants who received a first-round offer and the lowest weighted GPA to receive a first-round offer on 18/12/2022**
- 4. The total number of General Graduate category MB ChB applicant(s) who received a wait-list offer on 18/12/2022**
- 5. The lowest weighted GPA of General Graduate category MB ChB applicant(s) who received a wait-list offer on 18/12/2022**
- 6. The total number of General Graduate category MB ChB applicant(s) who were declined on 18/12/2022**
- 7. The highest weighted GPA of General Graduate category MB ChB applicant(s) who were declined on 18/12/2022**

With regards to the information you have requested for items 3 – 7 of your request, we note that no offers were made in this category on 18 December 2022. The information requested in items 3 – 7 of your request are not held by the University, therefore we decline these parts of your request pursuant to section 18(g) of the Act.

We note that the admissions process for the 2023 MB ChB programme is still underway, and University's Medical School has not yet confirmed final numbers for its 2023 MB ChB programme. This includes final admissions numbers under the Graduate General category, and the weighted GPA data you have requested. We are happy to grant your request and provide you with the information you have requested in items 3 – 7 of your request, however the data will not be known and therefore will not be available until the end of March 2023 – as student offers continue throughout the first few weeks of teaching in Semester 1. The reason for late offers relate to students declining entry to the programme after it has commenced (which is permitted providing it is done by the specified deadline) or having to defer to unanticipated reasons. Once this information is available, we will be able to provide you with final admission numbers to the 2023 MB ChB programme via the Graduate General category, as well as the weighted GPA information you have requested:

- number of Graduate General applicants to receive a first-round offer, and the lowest weighted GPA to receive a first-round offer
- total number of applicants waitlisted to enter the 2023 MB ChB programme via the Graduate General category
- the lowest weighted GPA to receive an offer to be on the waitlist to the 2023 MB ChB programme via the Graduate General category
- the highest weighted GPA to not receive an offer to enter the 2023 MB ChB programme via the Graduate General category

Please note that for privacy and student wellbeing reasons, the University's standard practice is not to report on data where it relates to fewer than five individuals. Where the numbers are very low, there is a risk that the identity of those individuals can be determined/inferred. Outcomes for groups with fewer than five individuals will be reported as "<5" (fewer than 5) or "W/H" ("withheld"). Withholding this information is consistent with section 9(2)(a) of the Act, and we do not consider that the reasons for withholding this information are outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable in the public interest to make the information available.

I trust that this information will be helpful. We will be in touch with regards to the remaining requested information (items 3 – 7 of your request) once this data has been confirmed and is available.

If you are not satisfied with our response to your information request, section 28(3) of the Act provides you with the right to ask an Ombudsman to investigate and review this response. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

Yours sincerely



Kelsey Kennard
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator
Office of the Registrar